

APPENDIX B

RSDI/SSI INCREASES 2014

In January 2014, SSI and RSDI recipients received a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) of 1.5%. The new monthly maximum Federal SSI payment levels for 2014 are:

Single - \$ 721 Couple - \$1,082

The standard Medicare, Part B, premium is \$104.90 for January 2014.

A. THE RSDI/SSI COLA UPDATE PROCESS

The annual COLA Mass Change occurred over the week-end of January 31 – February 1, 2014 for most Assistance Groups (AGs) in RAPIDS that have RSDI and/or SSI entered on AFUI or Medicare enrollment on AFMD. Reports which identify individuals affected by the COLA update became available on MOBIUS January 31, 2014. Manual updates must be completed by February deadline, effective March 2014. Advance notice requirements apply.

NOTE: Because of waivers received by West Virginia based on the changes implemented in the Affordable Care Act, Medicaid AGs will NOT run in the 2014 Mass Change. Unearned Income screens will be updated in eRAPIDS, but eligibility will not be run in Mass Change on Medicaid AGs. Therefore, there should be no changes to Medicaid based on the 2014 Mass Change.

For the automatic update to occur, the Social Security Number (SSN) in RAPIDS must match the SSN in the Social Security Administration file. In addition, the individual's RSDI and/or SSI income must have been entered on AFUI in RAPIDS. The automatic update is effective March 2014.

The automatic update does not occur if the income was entered, but end-dated prior to March 2014. It also does not occur if the begin date for RSDI and/or SSI income on AFUI is later than February 2014.

NOTE: The automatic update does not occur if the case is due for review. If the AG is due for a PR review, the automatic update of income and Medicare information does occur, but eligibility is not run. This prevents closure before the client has an opportunity to complete the PR review. Eligibility must be run to apply the updated income.

Two messages on the WRMC192A – Mass Change Exception Listing identify cases skipped when an AG is due for a review by PR and include:

The Case Maintenance Process

- PR Review Due (Case has a Review Date); and
- PR Review Due (Case Has No Review Date).

For QMB, SLIMB, and QI AG's, functionality on AFUI prevents the inappropriate closure and denial of these AG's due to the COLA increase. RAPIDS uses the begin MM/YY of AFUI to determine whether to enter a COLA disregard amount on the AFUI screen for Social Security income (RSDI) using a calculation based on the percentage of the COLA increase, unless a COLA Disregard Amount other than zero is entered manually. For procedures regarding Pickle AG's see item B,9.

Any AG which becomes ineligible for a benefit because of the update will not receive that benefit after February 2014. The appropriate notice is mailed. Workers must evaluate Medicaid AG's that fail for all other coverage groups. These AG's appear on WRMC182A - Assistance Groups Affected by Mass Change, which is described in Item B.

If the current benefit is not confirmed, and there is no previously confirmed passing benefit for the AG, the individual's information is not updated and the case is skipped by Mass Change. These AG's are shown on WRMC182U – Mass Changes Pending AG Listing.

When the SSA file indicates the customer is receiving RSDI or SSI and the amount is zero, the information in RAPIDS is not updated. This amount may not be accurate by the time of the COLA Mass Change and an error message displays this information on the COLA Match Report. The actual SSA benefit amount can be determined on SOLQ.

The WRMC 206A COLA Match Report – Match Result, contains the same information as the WRMC202A - RSDI/SSI/Medicare COLA Match Report – Last Name. On the 206A, the individuals within a Worker's caseload are sorted by match result message. On the 202A, the individuals within a Worker's caseload are sorted by last name. By using the 206A, Workers can identify particular match results which require immediate attention.

Mass Change report, WRMC216A - Post Mass Change Participation Status Report, identifies individuals whose participation status changed as a result of the Mass Change. Workers must determine if the change is valid.

B. REPORTS AND WORKER ACTION

Reports identifying individuals who have been affected by the COLA update became available on MOBIUS January 31, 2014. Manual updates must be completed by February deadline, effective March 2014.

The Case Maintenance Process

Successfully Updated. A separate match result appears for updated information. Only the Medicare Part B premium information is updated by the COLA Mass Change.

- If there is a Medicare premium amount other than zero on AFMD and no Medicare amount on the COLA tape, one entry for the individual is on the Match Report. The match result is Person is Not Part B Entitled. To prevent possible disruption of Buy-In, the Medicare information on AFMD is not updated. Workers must determine if a change in the Medicare information is needed.
- If there is a Medicare premium amount of zero on AFMD and the COLA tape shows the individual is eligible for Medicare, the match result for the first entry is Person is Part B Entitled. The match result for the second entry is Record Successfully Updated.
- If the Medicare Payer is 510 on AFMD and Self on the COLA tape, to prevent disruption of the Buy-In process, the payer is not updated on AFMD. The match result displayed is COLA Record Has Payer As Self. Otherwise, the payer is updated and the match result for the payer update is Updated Part B Payer.
- When the RSDI/SSI/Medicare premium amount(s) in RAPIDS reflects the same amount as listed on the COLA tape, and the begin date in RAPIDS is prior to March 2014, the match result is Record Successfully Updated. When this occurs, the same amount(s) listed in both the SSA and RAPIDS columns is seen and no action is necessary.
- The match result NO COLA Found for RSDI and No COLA Found For SSI indicates no benefit information was found for this individual's SSN on the Social Security Administration's tape, even though RSDI and/or SSI was entered by the Worker on AFUI. If the client's Social Security Number is correct, DXSA must be checked to see if SSA benefits received are based on another person's SSN.

6. Report WRMC 203 A - RSDI Garnishment Report

This report lists the individuals who have garnishments applied to RSDI and, as a result, the RSDI has not been updated. It lists the gross RSDI and the amount of the garnishment.

7. Report WRMC 205 A - Income on COLA File with No Corresponding AFUI

This report lists the individuals who have either RSDI or SSI on the COLA file and have no current corresponding AFUI screen for that type of income.

8. WRMC 216A - Post Mass Change Participation Status Report

This report identifies individuals whose participation status changed as a result of the mass change. The report is sorted by case Worker and lists the case number, PIN, caseload, name, current participation status after the mass change and the category. Workers must determine if the change is valid. An example of a valid change is an ABAWD with a new 36-month tracking period.

9. Pickle Assistance Groups (MP W)

Although the automated determination of the COLA Disregard Amount for RSDI on AFUI will prevent the inappropriate closure of QMB, SLIMB and QI AG's, it will not prevent the inappropriate closure of Pickle (MP W) AG's. The system will replace the current COLA disregard amount on AFUI for Pickle AG's with an amount based on the current RSDI COLA percentage increase. These AG's appear on the WRMC182A – Assistance Groups Affected by Mass Change report with the notation CLO to indicate AG closure. These failed AG's require manual correction by the Worker. As an added check, designated Supervisors will receive an **email** message listing all affected Pickle AG's at a later date. Worker action required for affected Pickle AG's is:

- Tran to AFUI showing RSDI for the affected individual using a future date parm such as 12121**5**.
- Note the current COLA disregard amount.
- PF8 to the next screen. This should display the previous COLA disregard amount.